

Whew! Your turn, now

As Election Day approaches, a few decisions have particular significance

Pretty soon, now, it will be your turn.

Election Day is Tuesday, and it's about time. This has been one strange presidential race and a long campaign season.

But before we step back and wait for your Election Day decisions, we'd like to highlight, one last time, a few places where the outcome will be especially important in defining the nation's and Oregon's future.

One, of course, is the presidential race. We believe that Democrat Bill Clinton would bring a vigor and redirection of focus on the nation's economic problems that George Bush has been incapable of.

Locally, we're so convinced of the wrongness of Ballot Measure 9 — the anti-homosexual initiative — that we give our concerns top billing in this editorial space. The national attention this hateful measure has received underlines the importance to Oregon's reputation — and future as a well-regarded place to visit and do business — of voting it down.

Other state initiatives (Measures 3 to 8) also deserve defeat. There's no need for voters to restrict through term limits their future choices for officeholders (Measure 3). The immediate closing of the Trojan nuclear plant (Measures 5 and 6) isn't necessary, especially since its owners plan to close it themselves once replacement power is available. Much as the state needs revenue to pay for the property-tax limitation, making business liable for a much heavier prop-

 **VOTE '92**

erty tax (Measure 7) is the wrong way to get it.

Elsewhere on the ballot, several items deserve support for retaining our treasured livability as more people come here to live. Measure 1, referred by the Legislature, allows the sale of bonds to maintain and expand our state parks system. It's needed to boost a parks network that hasn't grown as the population has.

Similarly, the Portland metropolitan area faces two important Metro measures. The proposed Metro home-rule charter, Measure 26-3, is needed to put control of the regional government squarely in the hands of local voters. And Measure 26-1, the Metro Greenspaces bond measure, is a forward-looking effort to establish regional trails and parks and save natural areas before they are gobbled up by development.

Local candidates especially well qualified to handle the problems of population growth are Dan Saltzman, running for the Multnomah County Commission, Charlie Hales for Portland City Commission and Vera Katz for Portland mayor.

These highlights, of course, shouldn't detract from the many other important choices Oregon voters face. But we've had our say, and for those interested, a summary of our recommendations will run on this page today and Monday.

It's up to you now. It matters. Vote.

Myllenbeck for Metro seat — in a close call

Perhaps more than in any other case we've encountered in this election year, voters in Metro's District 13 really cannot go wrong when they vote for a candidate to sit on the Metropolitan Service District Council.

We give the nod to Wes Myllenbeck, simply because of his years (he's lived 65 of them already) and his considerable experience in local government (city, county and special districts).

Accurately described by his opponent as "a technician," Myllenbeck also brings some vision to this Metro race. After serving as the first planning director in Washington County, serving on the county board of commissioners (as chairman), serving as a commissioner on the Unified Sewerage Agency board, serving as a commissioner for the Wolf Creek Water District and on advisory groups and task forces dealing with education, water and the Metro charter, the Cedar Hills resident understands how all these layers of government are supposed to fit together so the rest of us might have better lives.

We agree with Myllenbeck when he points to Metro as a key in how our region adapts to the next century. And we like the idea of having someone with his years and his wisdom helping make those decisions.

There's no denying, however, that his opponent, 42-year-old Terry Moore, would make a very good Metro councilor. With her own years of experience in the Citizen Participation Organization system (three years chairing CPO3), employment with the Portland Planning Commission staff, plus work on various commissions, advisory bodies and neighborhood groups, this Garden Home resident has all the knowledge and credentials voters should expect for a position like this.

Ironically, both candidates oppose the proposed Metro charter on the November ballot, and we agree with their concerns: too much money for the councilors (a half-time salary of almost \$30,000 a year, counting benefits) and fewer representatives (reduced from 13 to seven, meaning each one would answer to about 200,000 people).

District 13 is the new district established by the last Legislature. It's a very close call, but we suggest a vote for Wes Myllenbeck in Metro's District 13.

Oreg. 11-1-92

Timer 10/29/92